

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

BIRDS OF SOUTH DAKOTA. By William H. Over and Craig S. Thoms. Bulletin No. 9, South Dakota Geological and Natural History Survey (which is also) Bulletin No. 9, Series XXI, of the University of South Dakota. Vermillion, South Dakota. 142 pages, 20 plates and colored frontispiece. March, 1920.

This Bulletin, in which it has been the aim of the authors to secure as complete a list as possible of the birds of South Dakota, enumerates 322 forms.

Part I consists of brief discussions on the importance of bird study, various means of attracting and conserving birds, the economic relations of the group, coloration and changes in plumage, and closes with a short account of bird migration.

Part II is made up of a "List and Description of Birds of South Dakota." Here a lack of uniformity of presentation is apparent which might lead to difficulty for one unfamiliar with the classification of birds. The order Raptores is the only one mentioned and clarity as well as completeness would have been more apparent if at least the names of the other orders had been given in their proper places. In the discussion of the Anseres, while the members of the subfamilies Merginae, Anserinae and Cygninae are discussed under these headings, the members of the subfamilies Anatinae and Fuligulinae are lumped together under one heading and the reader is left to his own resources in separating the species of each subfamily. The same criticism pertains to the discussion of the Families Odontophoridae and Tetraonidae and to that of the Colymbidae and Gaviidae. In many cases the diagnoses of species and subspecies are scarcely sufficient and in other instances the identification marks given might be considerably improved upon, *e.g.* that of Lincoln's Sparrow. For certain species in which a considerable difference in color between the sexes prevails the color of the male only is given, *e.g.* Wilson's Warbler and the Redstart.

Numerous slips in typography such as misspelled specific names, capitalization of the first letter of some specific names, the printing of the word "subfamily" in some places as an entire word and in others as two words and the misspelling of the common name of *Rhynchophanes mccowni* mar the appearance of the paper and lead the reader to think that perhaps the authors were in too great haste to rush into print.

On page 129 the statement that "The Dipper or Water Ouzel is a slate-colored Thrush" is somewhat misleading; and surely the Swamp Sparrow as well as, perhaps, a few other species of birds not mentioned in the report should have been included.

Part III consists of a brief "Bibliography" in which some of the citations are scarcely sufficiently definite.

Scattered throughout the text of the Bulletin are the twenty plates, one of which is duplicated, and most of which are very good. They are reproductions from photographs and illustrate nesting boxes, baths, food boxes, nests and eggs and various species of birds. However, a happier

grouping of the subjects on certain plates might well have been indulged in.

The colored frontispiece of the Meadowlark, the work of Bruce Horsfall, is borrowed from the National Association of Audubon Societies.

In spite of its obvious defects this paper shows a trend in the right direction in the way of stimulating interest in birds and bird study and furnishes a substantial background for the recognition of South Dakota birds.

D. S.